

"That Other Promise: Take Heed"

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-28

(Illustration of importance of father's)

Someone has said, "Any father who thinks he's all important should remind himself that his country honors fathers only one day a year, while pickles get a whole week."

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples wanted to know what would the signs of His return would be and when the end of the world would take place. Matthew writes, "And Jesus answered and said unto them, 'Take heed,'" verse 4A.

That almost sounds like a TV commercial doesn't it? "Got a headache?, take two Heed tablets and call your doctor in the morning." That of course, wasn't what Jesus was saying, and we should add the rest of that verse because of its importance. He said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." He was aware that as time went on deception would come from many different directions.

(Illustration of boys in Biology class trying to deceive the professor)

In a biology class a group of boys took different bugs and from each of those bugs they took a part. Assembling these parts together they had what looked like a rare and unique bug. They then took this "bug" to the professor for him to identify.

The professor looked at the bug for a long time and finally he said, "Boys, I think this is a humbug."

There are these kinds of deception which basically just seek to pull a prank or joke. But Jesus wasn't talking about this kind of deception. He was talking about people who would come along and follow everything happening in the world and then set a time or date on the appearance of Jesus into the world again. And He was also talking about those who would wait for His coming and when it didn't happen, to lull people into a sense of security. This is a summation of where we are in our world today. There are those who are seeing the events of the world and forming groups to follow them and setting dates on His return. Then there are those who are saying, "2000 years have gone by and He still hasn't returned and I don't think He will. All of us will just live a normal amount of years and then die and after we're dead people will still be talking about His coming for the Church." In both instances the arch-deceiver is at work. Jesus knew this better than anyone else because He had been tempted by Satan at the very beginning of His earthly ministry. It was one of Jesus' disciples hearing what Jesus was saying about "Taking Heed," who wrote to the first-century church, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," 1 Peter 5:8.

Notice, Peter says, "Be sober, be vigilant." The word vigilant ~~is~~ has the same meaning as the words, "watch" and "Heed" had in Jesus' conversatin.

Now Biblical scholars are divided on these verses we are using this morning as to the actual time period involved. There are those who say ~~xxxx~~ this Scripture pertains to the period of the Tribulation. Then there are those who say these events precede the Tribulation. I believe these events precede the Tribulation, but will be intensified during the Tribulation. Let's look at some of these verses to see what Jesus was saying. First, Jesus tells of the coming of false Christs, verse 5 - (read). Sometime back in the eighties a full page ad appeared in the New York Times stating that the Messiah had arrived and was living in New York city. There have been others who have laid claim to being the promised one of God. There

are others who have not laid claim to Messiahship but have been acclaimed by other people as the Messiah. One of those on the scene today is the Head Red Gorbachev. People have actually called him "the Savior of the World."

Then Jesus said, verses 6 and 7, (read). Notice, at the end of verse 6 He says, "but the end is not yet."

He is saying that these events will be leading up to the end. We can see that even though ~~xxx~~ the major powers are at peace, there are small wars taking place right now in various parts of the world. Jesus said there would be "famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places." Earthquakes in recent days have been recorded in places where there were never earthquakes before. Remember last year there was a small one right here in Butler? A so called "world expert" about life on this planet came out just recently and said that the thing which would end the human race was not nuclear bombs, but famine since we cannot feed all of the population of the world right now. He said it would get progressively worse. Jesus said, "All these are the beginning of sorrows," verse 8.

Then He says, (read verses 9-11. But the conditions will be such that the faith of people will be severely tried because He says, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold," verse 12.

Sin is abounding today as never before. Punishment for those convicted even of heinous crimes is sorely lacking and so much so that people are questioning how things could possibly get much worse. And many of those are shrugging and saying, "What's the use, if you can't beat em, join em?" But we are to stand firm in the faith for our Lord said, "But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved," verse 13.

Another sign of the coming end is, (read verse 14). The Gospel has not yet been preached to 1 all the world, but it is getting closer every year. Bible translators are producing new translations every year.

Then Jesus goes into some other details of the end times which partially pertain to the Jews about the Temple and the Sabbath. His summation is, (read verses 21 & 22). Jesus is saying that as believers live through these end time days and things keep going from bad to worse, all mankind would ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ lose out on salvation, but God won't permit that because of ~~xx~~ those who are His. He will step into history at that point and His Church will be taken out of this present world.

As we see things escalating in sin, and violence, and bloodshed we wonder where it all will end. As believers we know that God will intervene into history and at the appointed time God will take His Church and His people out of the world scene. What should be our stance? Jesus said, "Take Heed." That word "Heed" is interesting to me since it was one of the first Greek words I had to learn in seminary. In Greek the word is "BLEPO". We had a lot of fun with the word. Someone would explain something to us and we would answer, "Oh, I Blepo," meaning "I see." Jesus is saying to look at events taking place, See those events for what they are. But does this mean we divorce ourselves from the living of this life and say, "Oh well, it's all going to end soon. So why not live it up and eat, drink, and be merry." We must live in this world and live through whatever ~~xxxxx~~ comes along, but we must be about our lives until God calls us home in whatever way He will.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Butler, Pennsylvania
Rev. Ralph Link, Pastor June 17, 1990
Mr. Robert Weisenstein, Liturgist
Mr. Dale Rice, Minister of Music
Mr. Roland Thompson, Saxophonist
Acolytes: Wesley Miller and Jimmy Shearer
+ + + + +
ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

Prelude
Chiming of the Hour
Announcements
Congregational Greeting
Joys
Prayer Requests
*Opening Hymn No. 123 "When We All Get to Heaven"
*Ascription
*Call to Worship:
Pastor - Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth
rejoice
People - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,
And into His courts with praise.
Pastor - Seek ye the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
Invocation: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, by whose
will and blessings we have been permitted to worship in
this house; we gratefully give you thanks for the years
this congregation has remained at this site. For worship,
preaching, teaching, and the ministry of comfort in the
name of Jesus Christ, for which this church and people
have existed, we praise You. May our worship this day
reflect our thanksgiving, and all future worship be worthy
of Your Most Holy Name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.
Praise: Leader - Blessed be the Lord God
People - And blessed be His glorious name forever.
*Gloria Patri - page 142
Children's Moment

Call to Prayer: Pastor - The Lord be with You
People - And with Thy Spirit
Pastor - Let us pray.

Morning Prayer
Giving of our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
Doxology - page 382

Dedication of the Church Building
Hymn No. "It Will Be Worth It All"

Scripture: Matthew 24: 3-28
Sermon: "That Other Promise: Take Heed"
*Invitational Hymn No. 128 "Face to Face"
*Benediction
*Closing Chimes
*Postlude
+ + + + + *Congregation Standing + + + + +
The beautiful flowers on the altar have been placed by
Ruth Davies in memory of Loved Ones.
Mrs. Emogene Massey will greet our members and guests at
the door this morning.
Ushering today are Kris Pedersen, Mike Kay, Anna Gonzalez,
and Lori Weisenstein.
Nursery will be provided today by Mrs. Shirley Link.
Attendance last Sunday was 106 with 9 visitors.
Rick Vinroe and Art Snyder will be visiting the hospital
this week.
Hospitalized: Mrs. Mary Sherman and Walter Hollefreund
in BMH. Mid Diefenderfer in Alleg. General
Van Driver for next Sunday will be Dick Mangel.
VBS begins on Monday at 6:30 to 9 P.M. All teachers are to
be there at 6:00 P.M. and ready. Openings will be held
in the Sanctuary. Please come, one and all. Classes for
all ages: yes, even the Adults!!!
JULY 15th - A very important congregational meeting will be
held immediately following the service in Rehoboth Hall.
We need all of you there, so please be in attendance.
JUNE 24th - PICNIC & WORSHIP IN THE PARK will be held at
11:00 A.M. Come with a picnic basket filled with food
and a table service. Dress casually and be prepared to
participate in the fun activities of the day. Bring a
ball glove and maybe we will play softball or volleyball.
Lay Life and Work Committee will be hosting this day.
Meat, dessert and beverages are provided.

At the close of the service the invitation is extended to
each worshipper to respond to God's leading for your
life. This invitation gives the opportunity to accept
Christ, to pray, to meditate, or to seek counseling.
The altar is open to everyone. The Pastor will assist
you if you desire.

TO: UNITY BIBLE CHURCH - TAMMERC, PA. - MAY 17, 1997

PRELUDE
GREETINGS/JOY/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER REQUESTS
FAMILY DINNER - JUNE 8, AFTER CHURCH
1 YRS JUNE 16-21, ADULT CLASS - 6:30 - 8:30

REV VERNON B. RCHERT NEXT SUNDAY
FLOWERS: SARAH JST FUNERAL
JUNE 7, 6:30 - FAMILY DINNER

HYMN
PRAYER/OFFERING
DOXOLOGY
PASTORAL PRAYER
HYMN
SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 24:3-28
ST. PAUL'S, BUTLER 6/17/90

HYMN
BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

JST FAMILY
PAULINE
MARLYN
TONY
JANET
BIL

NOTE: MT 24:3-28; MARK: "THAT OTHER PROMISEY TAK" (LIT)
(LIT: CATHEDRAL IN MILAN, ITALY & THOSE LOCUS)
THINGS OF ETERNAL VALUE AS NOT DISCIPLES THINK OF THIS SCIP
EVENT THO PLACED ON TUES OR WEDS OF HOLY WEEK AD 3
JS SIT W/DISCIPLES ON MT OLIVES & THEY DUNSTIN
VS 3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-2480-2481-2482-2483-2484-2485-2486-2487-2488-2489-2490-2491-2492-2493-2494-2495-2496-2497-2498-2499-2500-2501-2502-2503-2504-2505-2506-2507-2508-2509-2510-2511-2512-2513-2514-2515-2516-2517-2518-2519-2520-2521-2522-2523-2524-2525-2526-2527-2528-2529-2530-2531-2532-2533-2534-2535-2536-2537-2538-2539-2540-2541-2542-2543-2544-2545-2546-2547-2548-2549-2550-2551-2552-2553-2554-2555-2556-2557-2558-2559-2560-2561-2562-2563-2564-2565-2566-2567-2568-2569-2570-2571-2572-2573-2574-2575-2576-2577-2578-2579-2580-2581-2582-2583-2584-25

AS WE LONG PRONG TO TH/LORD IT NO MATTER WHETHER JO. APPEAR
 2DAY, 2NDRO, OF PTHO ISAL YRS FR/HOU
 IF WE P HIS, NEB HIS IN LIF & IN DEATH
 DR. STOWELL'S DEATH HAD WITH IDEA
 WHEN WE PART FR/EACH OTHER WE NEED TO SAY,
 "I'LL SEE YOU IN HVN" INSTEAD SO LONG, OR GOODBYE
 CAI I SAY THAT THIS MORN & TRULY MEAN IT??
 DO U KNO WHN CLOS UR EYES THIS LIF U WIL AWAKN IN HVN??
 WE CAN MAK THIS A REALITY IF HAVNT DUN SO
 COM TO TH/CAV TODAY & CAST UP LIF UPON HIM
 THEN KNO FOR CERTINTY NO ONE, NOT NUTHIN CAN SEPRAT U FROM
 ALITY GOD
 U R HIS NOW & FOREVER
 BUT IN TH/FRANTIME WE MUS "TAKE HEED"

(Thus self-importance of fathers)
 ANY FATHER WHO THINKS HE'S ALL IMPORTANT SHU' PERIN HIMSELF THAT
 HIS COUNTRY HONORS FATHER'S ONLY ONE DAY A YR, WHILE PICKLES GET
 A MGL HE = CAL. PACIF-RAD MALLHEAT DILIGENT 4/11
 Vs 4=asands lik TV commercil -GOT MEDACHE? TAK 2HEED & CAL FR MORN
 Vs 4=completly
 (I , boys biol clas & Rumbus)
 C/P decentin & satn's wiles
 1 Petr 5:8 - PFAD
 Vigilant-ssm as Watch Tak Peed
 C/P Bib scholrs & trib-pre-trib bout this Scrip
 vs 5=NY Times ad in 80's
 Gorbys
 vs 6-7=End not yet
 warn:erthquaks-Butler:famin as end of world
 vs 8=This Rain of sorrows
 vs 9-11=faith of peo tryd
 vs 12=luv of many wax cold
 sin lik nevr R4-crim/punishmen
 vs 13=we R 2stan fas
 vs 14=Bibl trans
 xxxxRkx2RkxJews-Templ & Sab
 Sumatin=Vss 21-22
 wat shudB our stanc?
 Gr=HEED - BLFPO - I See
 (Thus Dr. Jos Stowell, deth thret, dottr say=I'll C U In Hvn DAD)
 xxxxxM Rom 14:7-9
 Can U say that this morn & mean it?
 do U kno wen U clos Ur eys this lif U wil awakn in hvn?
 U can rek really if havnt dun so
 Cu. Sav 2day & cast Ur lif upon Him
 then kno 4certaty nuth can seprat U fr/G
 U R His now & 4evr - TAK HEED

"That Other Promise: Take Heed"

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-28

(Ilus of importance of fathr's) = F's Day lnce yr-pickls whol wk
As Js sit Mt Oliv discip's want kno wat wud sign return & end
world

Yr writ = vs 4a

almsa youn lik comercil dzunt it? - Got headache? Tak 2heed
siets & cal Ur doct'r in th/morn

that of cors wasnt wat Js was say & shud add res of vsays 4
this inport, Bcuz Js awar as tim went on deceptin wud tak plac &
cum fr/man'y dif direct'ns

(Ilus biol clas & boys "mak bug" & prof cal it =Humbug)

Ther & thez kinds decep seek pul prank/kck, but Js no talk bout
this kind decep

He talk bout peo wud cum long & lk events worl set dat/tim of
Js spear in2 worl agin

& He also talk bout thoz who wud wait & His cum & wen no harn,
lul peo in2 fals "ense security

this is sumatin of wher we ~ in worl 2day

Ther P thoz who C events of worl & form grps 2folo them & set

dates & times 4 His cum return
then ther thoz who say=2M yrs pas & He no cum yet, so dont think

He wil; we wil all liv amt yrs, dy, & aftr ded peo wil stil & talk
bout His return 4 His Ch

in both instance th/arch-deceivr is at work

Js knu this bettr than mos Bcuz He was temptd of him at Bgin min
it was one discip Js herd Him talk-Tak Heed who wrot 2 1st cen

Ch= 1 Peter 5:8 - READ

Notic-Petr say=B sobr, B vigilant & "vig" has sam mean of Watch,
& Heed in Js conversatin

Now Bib scholrs divid on mean of vss Scrip this morn

thoz say aply Trib

liev as othrs thez aply 2 pre-trib _ wat Js say wil3 intens-
fy during th/Trib

vs 5=Js tel of cum of fals Xpte - (fx=Ad NY Times in 80's Messiah)

Ther othrs who made claim & wil do so - Gorbachev & Sav of worl
vss 6-7=Notic, He say-End is not yet

He say thez events wil lead up 2end

evn tho Maja powrs R at peac=smal wars all ovr glob

Earthquaks=many places wh/never bin B4 - evn in Butlr las yr

famines=how one exper sed worl wud end insted nuclear

Js sed wud get progressively wors=Lk tornados, droughts, flash floods,
& recogniz truth of this

Js sed=Vs 8-Bgin of sorrows

Vss 9-11=condit'ns wil3 such that faith of peo wil3 sevrly tried

& so He sez=Vs 12

sin is abound as never B4

punishmen 4 thoz convic of heinous crimes is so-ly lakng

so peo questin "how cud get an wors?"

Ther4 many say="If I cant beat em, join-em & turn fr/rite liv 2/
but Js say=Vs 13

nothr sign (Js cum is=vs 14

Gospl no preach 2all worl, but ea yr get cloer

Bibl translatrs R produc new trans evry yr

Js then go in2 details bout things pertain 2 th/Jews Templ & Saba

J' sumatin is=Vss 21-22

say as Blievrs liv thru thez end-tim days & things go fr/bad

2wors, all mank wud los out on saliv, but G went permit that Bcuz

of thoz who P His

He wil step in2 histry & tak Ch out of presen worl

Is we C sin, violenc, bludshed escalat we wondr wher all wil end
wat shud3 our stance?

Js sed=Tak Heed

word Heed is intrrest 2me Bcuz one of 1st Gr words lernd in Sem

in Gr it is BLEPO & we had fun w/word

sumone tel us surth in expl & we ansr=I BLEPO - I see!

Js is say lk at evens tak plac & C thoz evens /wat they P

but duz this mean we divorc selvs fr/liv this lif & say=Ch wel,

it all go 2end soon, so whv not liv it up=eat, drink, & merry

we mus liv in this worl & liv thru watevr cum along

but we mus3 bout our lives until G calls us hom in watevr way

He wil

(Ilus Dr. Jor Stowell, lif thret & doct'r gudbye= "U In HVN)

I lik how P handl that thot=READ Rom 14:7-9

as long as we along 2 th/L it matrs not whthr Js appears 2day,

2moro, or nothr 2M yrs fr/nw

If we R His, we R His in lif & in deth

Dr. Stowell's doct'r had rt idea,

wen we sepat fr/ea othr, we need 2say=I'll C U In HVN, insted of
so long or gudbye

Can U say this, this morn & truly mean it?

U kno wen U clos Ur eyes in this lif U wil awakn in hvn?

We can mak this a reslty if we havnt yet dun so

Sum 2 th/Sav 2day & cast Ur lif upon Him

then kno 4 a certaty that nuth can sepat U fr/Almity G

U R His now & 4evr, Tak Heed

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.